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TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [XA](#) [ZI](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE MUGABE FROM ATTENDING
TICAD IV

Classified By: Ambassador J.T. Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) While Japan cannot disinvite any of the African heads of state it has invited to the TICAD IV meeting next month in Yokohama, it has been "diplomatically" attempting to discourage Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe from attending, according to MOFA Senior Foreign Policy Coordinator Takehiro Funakoshi. Funakoshi told visiting EAP/J Office Director James Zumwalt April 9 that Japan is sensitive to our concerns regarding Mugabe's participation at TICAD, but cannot single him out for exclusion. However, Japan is making clear to the Mugabe regime that if he comes, he will be given a very hard time by his hosts about the conditions in his country. Tokyo hopes these warnings will help to convince him not to attend.

Of course, the better outcome, agreed Funakoshi, would be for the democratic process in Zimbabwe to take its course and result in the seating of a new president following the recent elections.

SCHIEFFER